



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

GET UP YOUR PLASTER.

Among the several articles, of a mineral origin, that have been used by farmers as a fertilizer, Plaster of Paris, has stood the test of actual experiment longer, and given more actual satisfaction, than any other. Its abundance and comparative cheapness enables almost every one to apply it in such quantities as he likes, and he thereby can satisfy himself, in the course of a single season, of its value to his soil and his crops. Those who have used it with profit will be providing a supply for the coming season, and those who have not used it, but desire to test it, will also do the like, and the winter is a convenient season for doing it.

Although there are no deposits of this mineral found as yet in Maine, there is an inexhaustible amount of it among our next neighbors in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and shipped after shipload are brought to us, and carried into different sections of our State, where mills are established for pulverizing it and putting it into conical sacks of different sizes, so as to be readily transported from the mills to the farms where needed. And now, during good sledding, and when you are comparatively at leisure, is the time to lay in a store for future use.

From considerable use of the article obtained from the Provinces, we have not found any essential difference in the quality of the plaster brought among us, but there is often a difference in its action on the same piece of land, arising from the difference in fineness or degree of pulverizing as it passes through the mill. Hence it is well to examine and get a well pulverized article. We have obtained a good article from the Augusta Mills, and the last we used was some very finely ground in the Rockfield Mills, which we purchased of H. N. Hunt, Esq. We presume he has a good supply now, and those of our readers who reside in that neighborhood can supply themselves to any amount they desire.

While upon this subject, we may remind some who seem to think that plaster is useful to apply only in the spring. This is not the case. We have found it an excellent plan to sow it upon land soon after it has been mowed, and a crop of hay taken from it. It may be sown upon such lands any time in the summer or fall. The application of it also to pasture lands is in many instances of great use in supplying some deficiency brought about by constant cropping with the scythe and by cattle. We have known mowing lands kept in a fertile condition, although the grass on them was every year mowed and carried off, by a yearly application of plaster and bone dust. This was put on soon after mowing; and cattle being kept off, the "aftermath" or rowen would spring up and form a good protection for the roots during the ensuing winter.

It would be well for farmers who can procure plaster easily, to experiment with it on various parts of their farms, for various purposes. People generally pay little or no attention to the renovation of rough pasture lands. They are continually cropped by cattle, sheep, or horses, and nothing returned to them to supply what is taken off, unless it be the droppings of cattle, &c., as they travel over them while feeding. By sowing on plaster, ashes, bone dust, and such like fertilizers, you are enabled to keep up the good condition of the soil. Plaster, being cheaper and more easily obtained, should by all means be often applied, and any time of the year, when the ground is bare, we take to be suitable for doing it.

FILMS ON THE EYES OF CATTLE. It is often the case that, owing to injuries, or sometimes to a diseased constitutional system, a film or thickening of the outer coat of the eye of cattle, horses, sheep, &c., takes place. Many remedies are used, some of which make the matter worse. We are informed by Chas. B. Abbot, Esq., of Bangor, that he has always succeeded in removing such obstructions to the sight of the eye by simply pouring on it to common molasses. He says he has applied it to oxen, cows, horses and sheep, and in one instance to the latter when the film had been on the eye certainly two years. Two applications effectually removed it.

The way to apply it, is to open the eye and pour in a teaspoonful of molasses. It is somewhat painful to the animal, but effectual. It may be repeated in inveterate cases. This is a cheap and simple remedy, and should be generally known among farmers.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. The Board of Agriculture consists of sixteen, including the Governor and Secretary of State, who are members ex-officio. We have received official notice of the election of only the following: Kennebec Society, Horace Parlin; Cumberland, E. G. Buxton; Oxford, Darius Forbes; Washington, Nathan Pettigill. They are to meet at the State House on the 24 Wednesday of the present month.

GOOD ADVICE. J. Jay Smith, in his Horticultural, advises the young to cultivate those pursuits which will be no encumbrance under the pressure of business, or of adverse circumstances, but which will constitute the highest ornament of their prosperous days, and the most delightful companions of their leisure. Among such pursuits he would undoubtedly place Agriculture and Horticulture as the first, as a resource in age and prosperity, no less than in adversity;—when such knowledge may be turned to profitable account, they have no rivals.

LOOK TO YOUR GRAFTS. Our friend, Dr. N. T. True, among other good remarks on sundry topics in the Oxford Democrat, says that you should watch the junction of the graft, and the stock should be closely watched and kept covered; if not, the sap is apt to leak out, blacken, and the graft die.

GUANO AS A FERTILIZER.

Mr. Editor:—In my experiments in the use of guano, I have, as yet, received no benefit. By the agricultural journals of the Middle States it is said that, in those parts, and in the South, it is the best fertilizer introduced. Having occasion to be in those parts, I took some pains to see if the accounts were true.

In Lancaster Co., Pa., the garden of the State, large quantities were used with success,—and also in Maryland and the upper part of Virginia. I think I found there the reason of the unfavorable results of my experiments. They purchased of the agents of the Peruvian government, and it is inspected by the State inspectors of guano for Maryland, and therefore is pure. If it is first bought by certain dealers it is adulterated, and then put into the market.

If the farmers who buy, in this State, would employ some man to purchase what they wish, they would get pure. My plan would be for each one to order, advance money, and let their agent buy of the Peruvian government's agent and ship to some port here for distribution. The guano would not cost any more than it now does.

The sample that I brought with me, to compare with that I bought here, showed as much difference as between ashes and clay. S. P. M. Cape Elizabeth, Dec. 22, 1856.

ROOTS FOR SHEEP.—QUERY.

Mr. Editor:—Being a young farmer, and about commencing the raising of sheep, and finding various opinions in regard to them, I take the liberty to ask through the columns of your paper, being a subscriber myself,—First, are Ruta hags turning good for them? and if so, what amount per day is beneficial for them? Second, are turnips weakening, and are the sheep liable to lose their lands if fed on them? Thirdly, what amount of turnips should be given if the sheep are fed on rough fodder at the same time?

Will you or some of your subscribers give your experience in this matter, and oblige Augustus, December 25, 1856. G. M. S.

NOTE. There are many wool growers in Maine who can answer the above queries from long experience. Will our friend Moses Taber give us his views once more in this matter. "Line upon line," you know, was the old injunction, and it holds good yet. [Ed.]

CARROTS FOR FATTENING SWINE.

FRIEND HOLMES:—As everything connected with farming finds a place in your paper, I thought I would just tell you of my experiment with carrots in fattening swine. I commenced fattening this season with corn, had a small hog that had been wintered,—fed her on corn about six weeks, then having about fifty bushels of carrots, I commenced boiling and feeding them, adding half a peck of corn meal to the bushel, and think I never saw a hog do better. I thought that she fattened better than when fed exclusively on corn. I slaughtered her last Monday and have four hundred pounds of excellent pork; and by the loss of my potato crop, I have found a substitute, one that in my opinion will pay better. Probably some of your correspondents may have tried the same thing, if so, I should like to hear the result. A Subscriber.

Thorndike, Dec. 20, 1856

BESSEK SWINE.

We are happy to learn that Wm. S. Grant, of Farmington, has purchased and placed upon his farm three sows and a boar of the Essex breed. This breed are of the best form, good feeders, quickly fattened, and grow to good size. The only objection we have heard against them is their color, which is black. This color, we are told, is only in the scarf skin, and comes entirely off when scalded in dressing them. Their skin, which, like the Suffolk, is nearly bare, does not crack when exposed to the sun as does that of the Suffolk.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILROADS FROM FROSTED TRUCKS.

Let railroad managers and railroad travelers beware of accidents from this time forth until warm weather. Last winter we remember to have had some casualty to chronicle almost daily, from the breaking of wheels of railroad cars, occasioned by the extremely cold temperature. It was soon observed that these accidents usually occurred early in the morning, or at any rate very soon after a car that had been standing in a cold place was first put in motion. They were attributed, we remember, by one of our correspondents, to the sudden elevation of temperature of that portion of the hub or wheel nearest the axle-tree, caused by the friction when the car is set in motion, and which causes a sudden expansion before the heat can be diffused equally beyond the surface. The consequence is a fracture. The obvious remedies to this are either to keep the cars in a sheltered place when not in motion, or to start them with a moderate speed until the hubs and axletrees get warmed through. A car or locomotive ought to be stalled in winter as carefully as a horse, if it is to be kept in perfect readiness for use. If superintendents of railroads will see to this, we venture to say that accidents from the frosting of wheels will cease. At one time last winter the Central or Hudson River Road was actually short of running cars from the frequent breaking of wheels during a succession of very cold days. [N. Y. Evening Post.]

OVERSHOES. A new kind of Indian-rubber overshoe is announced, by which the unhealthy and unpleasantness arising from the use of rubbers are obviated. The peculiarity consists in making the shoes with the inner surface ribbed, corrugated, or otherwise made uneven, for the purpose of allowing a circulation of air between it and the boot and shoe over which it is worn; or the same thing may be effected by lining the shoe with a similar ribbed, corrugated, or otherwise raised and depressed surfaced fabric.

UNITED STATES AG. SOCIETY.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the United States Agricultural Society, will be held at the Rooms of the Smithsonian Institution, in the City of Washington, D. C., January 14th, 1857, at ten o'clock, A. M.

Business of importance will come before the Meeting. The Report of the Exhibition at Philadelphia, and the Journal of the Society for 1856 will be distributed to the Members present. At the same time, Awards of Premiums on Field Crops will be made; the Officers of the Society for the ensuing year elected, and the propositions which have been received in relation to the Fifth Annual Exhibition acted upon.

A Lecture will be delivered on the application of Science to Agriculture, by Professor HENRY, of the Smithsonian Institution. Another Lecture on the Grasses of the United States, will be given by CHARLES L. FLENT, Esq., Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture.

Other Lectures and interesting discussions are expected on subjects pertaining to the object of the Association.

The various Agricultural Society of the United States are requested to send delegates to the Meeting, and all gentlemen who are interested in the welfare of American agriculture, who would promote a more cordial spirit of intercourse between the farmers in different portions of our land, are invited to be present.

MARSHALL P. WILDER, President.

Wm. S. KING, Secretary.

December 20, 1856.

PROTECTION OF CELLARS FROM FROST.

MESSES. EDITORS:—In this climate nearly all cellars need some protection from frost, beyond the ordinary powers of walls, doors and windows. Cellars situated in dry soils, covered with tight floors, and surrounded with walls built double at least from one foot below the soil to the sills, the windows also being double, are usually safe. Those without these advantages of double walls and windows, need to be thoroughly banked.

For this purpose no material is so effective as fresh stable manure. It is dry, and its slight tendency to ferment, even in winter, resists frost. But it is not cleanly nor sweet; nor can it always be obtained at the season of need. In its absence dry leaves, such as fall in September and October from the shade trees which should be found around every well arranged homestead, form the best substitute. They need to be piled against the house and also covered with boards. It often happens, however, that cellars that seem well cared for externally do yet freeze. In such cases the floors above and the passages leading to such cellars, will almost always be found in fault. Warm air always rises, though heated ever so little, above that which surrounds it. Let an outside door be opened when the external air is ever so little cooler than that within the house. Now stand in the doorway with a lighted candle. If held at the top of the door the flame will be outward, showing that a current of warm air is there passing out of the room. If held at the bottom the flame will be inward, showing that a current of cold air is there rushing in. But if held in the centre it will burn calmly, because equally removed from both currents.

Now apply these principles to your cellar. Every crack in your floors communicating with cold, unoccupied rooms, and every crevice in your walls along the sills, connecting with the outside atmosphere, will become an outlet of warm air, while openings in a lower position will admit cold air.

Should your cellar be unusually tight, except those openings near the top, the same hole will exhibit a double current, i. e., one of warm air leaving, and one of cold air entering the cellar, which is the nozzle of a full jug of water shows counter currents, air and water passing through it the same moment.

Cellars whose walls, windows, and floors are in proper condition do yet often freeze in the latter part of the winter. The agency in this case is almost always a badly contrived cellar door. The current of warm air from the cellar finds an upward passage on the principles already stated, up through this passage. The chamber stairs above are often not tight, and they open moreover, into some cold, windy entry in the chamber. Thus there is a passage all the way from your cellar to your garret, through which the warm air is constantly leaving your cellar.

The cheap and effectual remedy for this, very often, great evil, is the construction of a trap door in your cellar way. It may be readily made thus: Place a casing on each side of your cellar way; place this casing just so much lower than the floor of the house, that when the trap-door is laid in, its upper surface will be even with the floor; attach a string or hook to the end of the trap-door over the upper step of the stairs, and hook this string or hook to some staple driven into the chamber stairs immediately above. In the chamber stairs immediately above. I prefer, however, to fasten a strong cord to the door, and have it play over a pulley attached to the chamber stairs. The door should be as tight as possible. My own is constructed of two parallel strips of boards for the outside, six feet long (which is the length of the cellar way). Across these, at the ends and in the middle, are nailed three narrow strips of thin board, three feet long (which is the width of the cellar way). Over the whole is nailed two thicknesses of old discarded carpet. As you raise the upper end of your door and fasten it above to the chamber stair, the lower end rests upon the casing already prepared to receive it. This door being shut down, you have a continuous tight floor over the whole cellar, which confines the warm, calm atmosphere. Such doors should not be shut down, nor should the windows be closed too early. A vegetable cellar on the first of December, should never be warmer than from 45° to 50°; if you wish your vegetables and fruit to keep from freezing. If you have a large cellar and a great variety of winter stores laid up in it, it would be wise to have it divided, selecting the coolest part for your cabbages, turnips, apples, &c.

The objection often made to closing a cellar entirely is that thus you have no means of ventilating of bad air. But how comes bad air in a cellar, especially in that part where potatoes, house plants, and cooked food is kept? Do you

keep a barrel of old beef brine there? Have you heaps of rotten apples, and potatoes, and cabbage leaves there? Or is the surface of the soil saturated with spilt milk, &c.? If so, you richly deserve to suffer all the consequences of foul air and pest. Mend your ways,—mend your ways, neighbor, and you yourself will by the first reap the benefits. C. E. GOODRICH.

Utica, Dec. 10th, 1856.

[Country Gentleman.]

THE GUANO TRADE.

The New York Evening Post furnishes some interesting facts respecting the guano deposits belonging to Peru, and the manner in which the business of removing and disposing of this important fertilizer is conducted. The guano islands (the Chincha) are about one hundred miles north from Callao, the longest of the group being two miles in length by half a mile in width; there is but little guano on the largest island, while upon the smallest it is two hundred and fifty feet deep. There are often from three to five hundred sail of vessels, generally of large size, loading at one time. At the rate which guano is now shipped from these islands, it will be exhausted in six to eight years. Twenty thousand tons are sometimes removed in a single day. There is on one of the islands a settlement of Chinese Coolies, who are employed in digging the guano and loading the vessels. A task is given them each day, and if the gang fail to get out the given number of wagon loads, of two tons each, a day, their bondage is continued a longer period, to make up; so many months or days being added as wagon loads are wanting.

These coolies are cheated into the belief by Manchinos, or knowing Chinamen, that they are to be shipped from China to California and the gold diggings, and are further deceived by the offer of a free passage. The shipmaster takes them to the Peruvian government and sells them for a round sum in the shape of freight money, and they are sent to the guano islands for life or for a term of five to seven years. The Peruvians also send all their prisoners of State, some two or three hundred, into the guano mines, where they are let out to work by day and confined by night.

The guano hard and can only be broken with the pickaxe. It is then broken and shoveled into the wagons and rolled through the "shutters" to the vessels. There is no fresh water taken from the islands, and each vessel is required to carry a tun of water there for every hundred tons brought from each nation is appointed Commodore, and hoists his flag as such on his ship, where all disputes are settled. Indeed the municipal laws of the islands and the fleet are decidedly of Yankee origin. Says the Post:—

"The islands are about ten miles from the main land and are composed of red sandstone. The guano is not all bird dung, but is not largely composed of the mud of the ocean; it is brought from Peru, is so, at least. When anchors are hoisted into the ship from the holding grounds of vessels along the Peruvian coast, large quantities of mud, of a greenish white color are brought up, and this mud when dried makes guano equally good with the guano taken from the islands. The birds and seals come upon the islands when the people are not at work, but it does not appear that their dung or decayed bodies are more than a foot deep on any of the islands. The composition taken from the islands, called guano, is stratified, and lies in the same form it did before it was lifted up from the bottom of the ocean. Our informant says that a geological examination of the islands will satisfy any man that the guano ships are bringing away from these islands a very different thing from the dung of birds or decomposed animals.

Gibbs & Bright of Liverpool, have a lease of the Guano Islands from the Peruvian government for five years, which expires in 1857, but hope to get their lease renewed. This house pays the Peruvian government about \$4,500 a tun for the privilege of taking all the guano from the islands, the government furnishing the men to dig the guano." [Boston Journal.]

FREEZING TO DEATH. That to be frozen to death must be frightful torture, many would consider certain, from their own experience of the effects of cold. But here we fall into the usual error of supposing that the suffering will increase with the energy of the agent, which could only be the case if sensibility remained the same. Intense cold brings on speedy sleep, which fascinates the senses, and fairly beguiles men out of their lives. The most curious example of the seductive power of cold is to be found in the adventures of the botanical party, who, in Cook's first voyage, were caught in a snow storm on Terra del Fuego. Dr. Solander, by birth a Swede, and well acquainted with the destructive effects of a rigorous climate admonished the company, in defiance of lassitude to keep moving on. "Whoever," said he, "sits down will sleep—and whoever sleeps will perish." The doctor spoke as a sage, but he felt as a man. In spite of the remonstrances of those whom he had instructed and alarmed, he was the first to lie down and die.

The same warning was repeated a thousand times in the retreat from Moscow. Alison, the historian, to try the experiment, sat down in his garden at night, when the thermometer had fallen four degrees below zero, and so quickly did the drowsiness come stealing on, that he wondered how a soul of Napoleon's unhappy hand had been able to resist the treacherous influence. [London Quarterly.]

CLEANING STOVES. Stove lustro, when mixed with turpentine and applied in the usual manner, is blacker, more glossy and durable than if put on with any other liquid. The turpentine prevents rust, and when put on an old rusty stove will make it look as well as new. The odor of the turpentine passes off quickly.

GRAIN IN GREAT BRITAIN. The imports of grain into Great Britain, for 1856, calendar year of 1856, was equivalent to 85,619,532 bushels of wheat; in 1854 it was 63,267,240 bushels, and in 1855, 50,227,608 bushels. The estimate for the next year is that 40,000,000 bushels will be wanted, which Russia, it is supposed, will supply 10,000,000, Prussia 10,000,000, and other European countries 5,000,000, leaving 15,000,000 bushels to be furnished by the United States.

THE SLEIGHING OF THE GIRLS.

From daybreak, now, to sunny noon,—from noon until the night, When pours the effulgence of the moon on streets of ghastly white; From night until the grey of dawn, the tide of pleasure whirled, And all things now bend to this—the sleighing of the girls.

Now Alas! as the mirror looks, and Mary ties her bonnet, A "cinder" of tall and lean, with pair-boots upon it, And hearing bells loud jingling near, they both arrange their curls; There's Bobby driving up! He's come a sleighing of the girls.

And now beneath the buffalo robe they tuck their pretty feet, While o'er the reins with wondrous pains, Bobby reigns no seat— The horses are so gaily drest, the harness all complete, My gracious! What a "sweet they cut," a driving up the street!

And Bobby also "cuts a swell," and cuts the horses, too, And "cuts" his poor acquaintances, as crowds he passes through; And now behind the horses' heads, a clouded snow wreath whirled, My gracious! What a lovely!—this sleighing of the girls.

And Bobby, then, to show his skill, drives faster and still faster, And "cuts" in hand, presides o'er all of all horse kind the master. Around the corner like a top—the sleigh like lightning whirled; The sleigh speeds on; but in a twinkling Bobby and the girls!

MORAL. Don't put on airs when with the fair—don't try to "cut a swell." Or, we'll be bound, you may be found where Bobby was—pell mell!— All mixed up with embroidery, with rosy lips and curls; Oh! what a bliss to end like this the sleighing of the girls!

WEST PENOBSCOT AG. SOCIETY.

AWARDS OF PREMIUMS.—1856.

Stallions.—1st premium \$5.00, "French Tiger," to James Copeland, of Corinna; 2d, 3.00, "Drew Horse," to Hiram Drew, of Lewiston; 3d, 3.00, to W. L. F. Walker of Exeter; 4th, 2.00, to Reuben Burnet of Newport.

Brooding Hens.—1st premium \$2.00, to Daniel Goodwin, of Seboston; 2d, 1.50, to Joseph Tobbet, of Exeter; 3th, 1.00, to True W. Shaw, of Gardiner; 4th, 1.00, to John Andrews, of Exeter; 5th, 1.00, to R. H. C. Tobbet, of Exeter.

Town Hens.—1st premium \$2.00, to Aaron Coburn, of Newport; 2d, 1.50, to B. B. Bates, of Exeter; 3th, 1.00, to Wm. Walling, of Exeter; 4th, 1.00, to Daniel Goodwin, of Seboston; 5th, 1.00, to Joseph Tobbet, of Exeter; 6th, 1.00, to True W. Shaw, of Gardiner; 7th, 1.00, to John Andrews, of Exeter; 8th, 1.00, to R. H. C. Tobbet, of Exeter.

Carriage Horses.—1st premium \$2.00, to Nathaniel Goodwin, of Seboston; 2d, 1.50, to A. B. Bragg, of Exeter; 3th, 1.00, to True W. Shaw, of Gardiner; 4th, 1.00, to John Andrews, of Exeter; 5th, 1.00, to R. H. C. Tobbet, of Exeter; 6th, 1.00, to Joseph Tobbet, of Exeter; 7th, 1.00, to True W. Shaw, of Gardiner; 8th, 1.00, to John Andrews, of Exeter; 9th, 1.00, to R. H. C. Tobbet, of Exeter; 10th, 1.00, to Joseph Tobbet, of Exeter.

Two years old Colts.—1st premium \$1.50, to Jacob S. Griffin, of Lewiston; 2d, 1.25, to D. P. Larrick, of Bradford; 3d, 1.00, to Wm. Walling, of Exeter; 4th, 1.00, to Wm. W. Page, of Exeter; 5th, 1.00, to L. D. Butters, of Exeter.

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One year old Colts.—1st premium \$1.25, to Nathaniel Goodwin, of Seboston; 2d, 1.00, to Nathaniel Barker, of Exeter; 3th, 1.00, to Benja. Chubb, of Exeter; 4th, 1.00, to Timothy R. Shaw, of Exeter; 5th, 1.00, to Nathaniel Goodwin, of Seboston; 6th, 1.00, to Joseph Tobbet, of Exeter; 7th, 1.00, to True W. Shaw, of Gardiner; 8th, 1.00, to John Andrews, of Exeter; 9th, 1.00, to R. H. C. Tobbet, of Exeter; 10th, 1.00, to Joseph Tobbet, of Exeter.

One year old Horses.—1st premium \$1.50, to L. D. Butters, of Exeter; 2d, 1.25, to D. P. Larrick, of Bradford; 3d, 1.00, to Wm. Walling, of Exeter; 4th, 1.00, to Wm. W. Page, of Exeter; 5th, 1.00, to L. D. Butters, of Exeter.

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One-Horse Wagon.—Timothy R. Shaw, of Exeter, 1st premium, \$1.50.

Market Wagon.—H. H. Norcross, of Charleston, 1st premium, \$1.50.

Heath Ray.—Mrs. R. B. Foss, of Charleston, 80c.; 3d, Mrs. Sherborn Tilton, of Charleston, 75c.; 4th, Miss A. J. Eastman, of Exeter, 60c.; 5th, Mrs. Marcus Paul, of Exeter, 50c.; 6th, Mrs. J. P. Chandler, of Exeter, 40c.; 7th

LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE FULTON.
The steamer Fulton arrived at New York about noon of the 31st ult., bringing dates from Europe to the 18th, five days later. The following is a summary of her news:

The steamer Hermann put back to Southampton on the 14th, with a load of mail. Her mail and passengers were transferred to the Fulton. The Arctic ship Koolatuk, at Coves, had been visited by Queen Victoria, accompanied by the Royal family, the American Consul, the consular officers in person, and a large number of distinguished persons.

All the American officers that went out in the Resolute had been invited to the Queen's Palace at the Isle of Wight.

Several mail steamers from Liverpool and Southampton had put back damaged, during the recent violent gales, which had been very destructive.

The London Times pronounces the Message of President Pierce as on the whole conciliatory, both in manner and matter.

The re-assembling of the Congress of Paris is fixed for the 20th or 25th of December.

It was believed the difficulties concerning the Isle of Serpents, and Bolgrad would be arranged beforehand.

The quarrel between Spain and Prussia had gone so far that it was feared the next step would be open hostilities.

Milaud, who attempted to assassinate the King of Naples, had been hanged.

The marriage of Prince Frederick of Prussia with the Princess Royal of England, is fixed for the 21st of November next.

Duke Alesandro, Spanish Envoy Extraordinary to Russia, arrived at St. Petersburg Dec. 9.

Navigation of the Baltic was re-opened Dec. 14.

Constantinople advises that Persia had recognized, by proclamation, the English declaration of War.

The British had taken the Island of Ormuz and Karak.

The Russians under Gen. Philippov have taken Soukhouf Kalah, after a gallant resistance by the Circassians.

The English Funds remained unaffected by the heaviness of the Paris Bourse, and closed on the 16th at a recovery of 1-8.

Foreign securities were firm, French three per cent closed 106 1/2, for money, a decline of 2 per cent during the month.

LATER-ARRIVAL OF THE NIAGARA.
The steamer Niagara, with dates from Liverpool to the 20th ult., arrived at Halifax on the evening of the 31st ult. We make the following synopsis of her news:

Great Britain. Transports are being taken up in England for reinforcements to the India expedition against Persia. Eight regiments have orders to be in readiness.

Capt. Hartstein, officers and crew of the Resolute, are returning to England, and the British ship will be withdrawn, and from want of time, have had to decline the invitations to dine with the Geographical Society, and other public bodies. Three thousand persons visited the Resolute, after a great meeting. The Queen sent £100 to the crew.

A steam tug had arrived from the wrecked ship, and reports that the weather was not so bad as it was reported. The ship was not so badly damaged as it was reported. The ship was not so badly damaged as it was reported.

FRANCE. An editorial in the Monitor on the Neuchâtel affair, has attracted attention in Switzerland, and reports that the Swiss federal government an ultimatum to be regretted, an exaggerated suspicion, and a complete indifference to the counsel of France.

The Prince of Prussia, presently to be at Paris in bearer of an autograph invitation from the King, for Emperor Napoleon to visit Berlin in the spring, and it is said the Emperor will accept.

A deputaion of the Wallachian Boyards, in Paris, have presented an address to the Emperor, in favor of a union of the Principality.

Several of the French papers are advocating the establishment of a government of the subject of the Constitution. The Constitution says the present state of the money market is the sole barrier. The Sicile proposes a government subject to the existing transatlantic telegraphs, and adds that the government is about to be the subject of a transatlantic line—a question that has been adjudged so often, and which catastrophes, such as the loss of the steamer Pacific, the City of Philadelphia and the Lyons, render more than ever indispensable.

GERMANY. A British letter states that the Prussian note relative to Neuchâtel would be read to the German Diet on the 18th.

Prussia is making great preparations to move against Switzerland. Considerable more than two army corps, as first intended, will be mobilized for immediate service.

SWITZERLAND. A Paris despatch says: "A friendly Prussia, not named, is understood to be suggested that Switzerland should be required to accept of Prussia's demand of the release of Neuchâtel prisoners by a collective vote of the Powers which signed the Protocol of London. This would enable Switzerland to make an honorable exit from the conflict."

ITALY. A Sardinian loan of 50,000,000 livres is talked of.

To Deum was celebrated at Milan for the escape of the King of Naples from assassination. The Austrian Archduke and all the officers assisted.

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.
TUESDAY, Dec. 30.
SENATE. On motion of Mr. Waller, a resolution was adopted, calling on the President to communicate a statement of all payments and allowances which have been made, and of all claims disallowed him, from the date he joined the army in Mexico to Dec. 1, 1856, together with any correspondence on the subject.

The Senate adopted a motion of inquiry into the expediency of settling the boundary of Utah. Adjourned till Friday.

HOUSE. The Diplomatic and Consular appropriation bill was considered and passed. Adjourned till Friday.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS.
The following is a synopsis of the annual report of the Commissioner of Penitentiaries:

THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS.
The number of prisoners, admitted during the year ending June 30, 1856, are as follows:

71 revolutionary prisoners, yearly amount, \$4,900 63
410 prisoners, yearly amount, 25,500 00
335 prisoners and orphan, yearly amount, 20,900 00
116 invalids, do, 12,657 00

1,100 cases admitted. Total yearly amount, 74,000 00
The arrears due on the above pension at the date of issuing the pension certificates, amounted to:

To revolutionary soldiers and widows, \$154,287 08
To all others, 40,548 20
Total, 194,835 28

During the past year there has been paid by pension agents in the several States and Territories:

To revolutionary soldiers, \$81,274 50
To widows of revolutionary soldiers, 60,544 40
To soldiers and orphan, or half-pay pension, 43,178 90
Total, \$185,000 00

The number of pensions on the roll on the 30th June, 1856, were—

614 revolutionary soldiers, yearly amount, 31,584 34
612 widows of soldiers, yearly amount, 41,535 40
2,620 soldiers and orphan, or half-pay, yearly amount, 443,132 26

13,078 pensions. Total yearly amount, \$1,071,698 97
There have been 399 pensioners, added to the rolls, and 1,000 stricken off by death. Of the latter number, 212 were revolutionary soldiers. Many of this class of pensioners yet living are reported to be from 85 to 106 years of age.

NAVY PENSIONS.
There have been 47 original applications, and applications for increase admitted, the annual amount of \$25, and the arrears due at the date of issuing the pension certificates, amounted to \$17,750 30.

The number of pensions on the roll on the 30th June, 1856, were—

325 invalids, yearly amount, \$22,516 50
453 widows and orphan, yearly amount, 96,570 00
Total, \$119,086 50

During the past year there has been paid by pension certificates, amounting to \$1,071,698 97.

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OUR WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.

Must we abandon woollen manufacturing in the State of Maine? It is now hardly destroyed. No broad-cloth mills, using wool alone, are running in this or any other State in the Union.

In 1846 there were over three hundred mills of this description, in successful operation in the United States.

A duty of 30 per cent. was laid that year upon foreign wool for the encouragement of wool growing at home. It has failed to produce that effect, and has stopped the manufacturer—destroying the latter and injuring the former.

The same policy was formerly pursued in England and France with the same result—the duty was then wholly removed—and manufacturing and the growth of wool have steadily increased ever since in equal ratio.

Let us have the raw material and dye stuffs admitted free, as all other manufacturing nations do, and as proposed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and, in consequence, the wool-grower, Congress—and our water power will be taken up—the woollen business, so well adapted to our State, will flourish, and farmers find a steady market, not only for wool but for all other products.

We do not wish to reduce the average price of our wool, by thus repelling the duty on foreign, for we are well assured that it will produce an effect just the reverse of that—but to compel our competitors abroad to pay as high for wool as we do—and then, with a moderate duty on the manufactured article, to offer their lower price of wool, and lower rate of interest, etc., may compete with us successfully, the laborer, the farmer, and give the farmer a remunerating price for his wool.

When we look over our State, we can see that for the past few years woolen manufacturing has been struggling very hard to live, and with the most rigid economy; most of them have given up the struggle, and it must be evident to every observing mind that the remaining mills of the State are capital and labor, and are struggling to live.

Other nations, who now carry their wool to markets where no duty is imposed on it, will then come to us, thereby inducing an exchange of products, to our great advantage. If the wool-grower, and the manufacturer, must of course, for their interests are inseparable.

Though the farmer may be dismayed at first by the prospect of foreign competition in wool growing, he need not be so, for the wool-grower, and the manufacturer, must of course, for their interests are inseparable.

Our young men and business men are emigrating to the West, and the wool-grower, and the manufacturer, must of course, for their interests are inseparable.

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AUGUSTA PRICES CURRENT.

Table with 4 columns: Commodity, Price, and other details. Includes items like Flour, Wheat, and various oils.

BRIGHTON MARKET, Jan. 1.
At market, 700 head cattle, 1400 sheep, 2750 swine, 800 fat hogs.

BOSTON MARKET, Jan. 5.
Wheat—Sales of Western spring wheat at 80¢ 50¢; fancy, 85¢ 50¢.

PROF. WOOD'S HAIR RESTORATIVE.
We know the feeling that we have, but that is sufficient, particularly when we see testimonials of its efficacy.

A CARD TO THE LADIES.
Dr. J. J. Moore's Golden Pencil Soap for Facial, and other uses, is a most valuable preparation.

REMARKABLE CURES BY USING THE GENUINE.
Allied Rheumatism and Humors Syrup.

THE OLD STANDARD REMEDY FOR ALL PULMONARY AFFECTIONS.
A valuable preparation, and one of the most reliable for Coughs, Croup, Consumption, and all other affections of the throat and lungs.

THE NEW TYPE AND ELEGANT WALL PAPER.
This popular Agricultural Family Newspaper, will commence its new series on the 1st of January, 1857.

THE FARMER'S FAMILY PAPER.
FOR 1857.

LOOK OUT!
LOOK OUT!—A New England Style.

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FRANKLIN HOUSE.

Water Street, Augusta, Maine.
The subscribers hereby inform their friends that they have recently taken the above named House, and are now open for the reception of guests.

A GOOD FARM FOR SALE.
A good farm, containing about 100 acres of good land, situated in the town of Waterville, Me.

FARM FOR SALE.
A good farm, containing about 100 acres of good land, situated in the town of Waterville, Me.

Phrenological EXAMINATIONS!
145 Washington St., Boston.

THE BEST FAMILY PAPER.
IN NEW ENGLAND.

THE AMERICAN TRAVELLER.
The unprecedented success of the Traveller during the past year—having more than tripled its circulation—has induced the publisher to publish it at a reduced rate.

THE AMERICAN TRAVELLER.
A FIRST CLASS BOSTON PAPER, ESTABLISHED IN 1825.

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Published Tuesday and Friday, containing all the News, and a full and complete list of the most interesting and useful Travellers.

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